

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated 10 April 2007. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

In the specification, certain paragraphs have been deleted on pages 1 and 2.

Applicant notes that the Office Action mischaracterizes which claims are pending (not cancelled) and which have been withdrawn. The following is the correct status of the claims in this patent application. Claims 1-23 and 27-48 were pending in the application. Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21-23 and 27-29 are withdrawn. Claims 8-9, 19-23, and 27-48 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-18 are currently being amended. Claims 95-104 are being added. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-7, 10-18, and 95-104 are now pending in this application.

For simplicity and clarity purposes in responding to the Office Action, Applicants' remarks are primarily focused on the rejections applied to the independent claims (i.e., claim 1) as outlined in the Office Action with the understanding that the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons (and in most cases other reasons) that the independent claims are patentable. Applicants expressly reserve the right to argue the patentability of the dependent claims separately in any future proceedings.

Claim Objections***Independent Claim 1***

On page 2 of the Office Action, independent claim 1 was objected to for including product-by-process language that was considered unnecessary. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to overcome the objection. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***Independent Claim 1***

On page 3 of the Office Action, independent claim 1 and various dependent claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either U.S. Patent No. 5,149,579 to Park et al. or U.S. Patent No. 4,701,370 to Park. Applicants respectfully submit that neither of these references disclose the identical subject matter recited in independent claim 1. For example, independent claim 1, as amended, recites a “multilayer polymeric structure” including, among other elements, a “foamed core,” and a “first polymeric skin layer coextruded with and joined to a surface of the foamed core” wherein the “first polymeric skin layer comprises a bonding polymer that facilitates bonding of the multilayer polymeric structure to other materials,” which is not identically disclosed in either of the cited references. As explained in the specification of the present application, the bonding polymer is considered an adhesive that allows the multilayer polymeric structure to be coupled to additional materials during downstream processing. Neither reference discloses coextruding a bonding polymer with the foamed core. None of the polymers that are coextruded in the cited references are bonding polymers

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and the claims that dependent thereon are not anticipated by the cited reference and are patentable.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 95-104.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the present Application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner needs anything or if a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants respectfully put the Patent Office and all others on notice that all arguments, representations, and/or amendments contained herein are only applicable to the present patent application and should not be considered when evaluating any other patent or patent application including any patents or patent applications which claim priority to this patent application and/or any patents or patent applications to which priority is claimed by this patent application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2623. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,

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By /Scott C. Nielson/

Scott C. Nielson
Registration No. 50,755